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Reporters as spies? No way!

Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA, thinks it is in the national interest for his agency to recruit American reporters occasionally to carry out overseas missions. We could not disagree more sharply.

One of the cornerstones of our system of democracy is an independent press providing the public information without fear or favor. If even one foreign correspondent is identified as a CIA spy, then all are suspect and all are hampered in their reporting. That does not serve the national interest—just the opposite, it undercuts it.